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REVIEWS

A SPEECH SYMPOSIUM

The editor of the *Journal of Ophthalmology, Otology, and Laryngology* has recently co-operated with the Committee on American Speech of the National Council of English in a novel and helpful way. He devoted the entire number for April, 1916, to a symposium by some fourteen persons, who give interesting and helpful statements of their special knowledge and experience on different phases of the problems related to speech, voice, and hygiene of the vocal tract. The thousands of teachers of English in the high schools of this country will be interested to learn of this co-operation and to get the views of medical men and others on this common problem.¹ It is noteworthy and commendable that a medical journal will take up so effectively the work which can be only partly done by English teachers.

Interesting and effective editorials by Drs. G. W. Mackenzie and Burton Haseltine are followed by a list of contributors containing many prominent names. After a general survey of the subject by Professor Clapp, in which he points out the universal importance of effective speech as the chief medium of human intercourse and the universal neglect of satisfactory training and conditioning of the speech apparatus, including the efforts of the national committee to effect some improvements in our speech, we come to a group of papers discussing the structure and hygiene of the voice apparatus and its treatment when infected or diseased. The authors are Dr. Rice of Boston, Dr. Beck of Chicago, Dr. Blanton of the University of Wisconsin, Dr. Noyes of Chicago, representing the dentists, and Professor Gandell of the Cosmopolitan School of Music of Chicago.

The various causes of speech defects, such as stuttering, lisping, mumbling, foreign accent, throaty voice, and many others, are dealt with from the anatomical, the dental, the psychological, and the educational standpoints. Numerous plates showing the effects of adenoids, enlarged tonsils, malocclusion of the teeth, the character of the organs

¹ Reprints of the symposium may be had of the Nelson-Schram Company, 14 Devereux Street, Utica, New York. Price 25 cents.

of speech, and others are to be found in this section, to the great advantage of the reader.

The second group of chapters takes up the relation of speech training to industrial and social efficiency. A number of large business firms in this country have been so affected by the faulty speech of their employees that they have organized and experimentally carried on systematic training in speech. John W. Bradshaw, who is division traffic supervisor of the Chicago Telephone Company, and W. B. Towsley, superintendent in charge of the efficiency and welfare department of Marshall Field & Company of Chicago contribute interesting articles on this commercial phase of the subject. The former firm uses six thousand operators, who carry on their great work of connecting up all parts of a great city and surrounding towns by the use of forty-five million words a day. In their operators' school, continuing about a month for each candidate, thirty minutes a day are given to speech training, and afterward constant supervision of speech is given those who enter the service. Interesting photographs illustrate this part of the work. Dr. Thompson, who has an article on "The Telephone Operators' Throat," shows that this training evidently helps the "telephone girl" not only to do her work with better satisfaction and with less fatigue but decreases the number of cases of ailments of the throat due to prolonged misuse. He also thinks that this training of operators helps to improve by example and suggestion the speech of the public in general. Mr. Towsley emphasizes the value of correct speech for all employees of business firms.

Otis Skinner, the actor, Professor Scott of Michigan, Supervisor Bachrach, and Principal McDade represent the points of view of the school and the stage in speech development, while Dr. Haseltine shows the results of scientific study of voice production, by the use of photographs, upon living subjects actually making the various tones. Our allotment of space forbids suitable mention of the many excellent ideas brought forward in this section.

Altogether, the volume, while in some parts hasty and inconsequential, makes an organized and mass attack on a serious problem in this country. Teachers of English from the mother in the home up through the kindergarten, elementary and high school, and college may find valuable suggestion in its pages.

LOUIS W. RAPEER